

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 65, 67-80, 82-92, 94-101 and 103-112 were previously pending. As noted above, claims 65, 68, 72-74, 79, 80, 82, 87, 91, 92 and 101 have been amended, claims 67, 69-71, 75, 76, 78, 84, 85, 88-90, 96, 97 and 100 have been canceled, and no claims have been added. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the Specification.¹ Thus, claims 65, 68, 72-74, 77, 79, 80, 82, 83, 86, 87, 91, 92, 94, 95, 98, 99, 101, 103-112 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application based on the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 71, 76, 85 and 89 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and their intervening claims. Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter and present the following claim amendments in response. Claim 65 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 71 and all intervening claims. Claim 74 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 76 and all intervening claims. Claim 80 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 85 and all intervening claims. Claim 87 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 89 and all intervening claims.

Additionally, claim 92 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 97 and all intervening claims. Applicants respectfully request amended claim 92 be allowed as the subject matter recited in claim 97 corresponds to the allowable subject matter from claims 71, 76, 85 and 89.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 65, 67, 69-70, 78-80, 83-84, 90-92, 95-96, and 100-101 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (US Patent No. 7,254,409). Applicant's amendments to the claims render the rejection moot.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 65, 67, 69-70, 78-80, 83-84, 90-92, 95-96, and 100-101 under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Sato.

¹ See, e.g., Specification, and previously presented claims 71, 76, 85, 89 and 97.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 68, 72-75, 77, 82, 86-88, 94, 98 and 99 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,254,409) in view of Chang et al. (US Publication No. 2002/10102967). Further, Claims 71, 76, 85, 89 and 97 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Sato (US Patent No. 7,254,409) in view of Siddiqui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,826,176). Applicant's amendments to the claims render these rejections moot.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 68, 71-76, 77, 82, 85-89, 94, 97, 98 and 99 under 35 USC § 103(a).

CONCLUSION


In light of these remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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